

THE

GOBRECHT

JOURNAL



**For Collectors
of the**

LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES

VOLUME TWENTY SEVEN ISSUE #80

DIMES

1866	NGC Proof-64, gorgeous	\$775
1870-S	ANACS F-12	375
1880	Proof-62, brilliant	275
1880	PCGS MS-64, white	650

QUARTERS

1840-O	WD, Lg O, ANACS VG-8	\$850
1840-O	WD, Lg O, SEGS XF-40	1700
1841	PCGS VF-30, super nice	185
1845	NGC MS-63. 5 over 5	825
1846	ANACS AU-50, nice toning	140
1848	PCGS VF-35, old cleaning	135
1849-O	Good+, old cleaning	525
1853	NA, weak L, darkly toned	795
1854-O	VF+, Briggs 3-B	100
1854-O	ANACS AU-50, nice	395
1864-S	VG, old cleaning	440
1864-S	Fine, some dark areas	475
1864-S	Fine, obverse scratch	550
1864-S	ICG Fine-12	650
1864-S	ANACS VF-35	950
1866-S	Fine, old cleaning	425
1866-S	NGC VF-20, original	750
1867	ANACS VG-8, old cleaning	215
1867-S	PCGS Fine-15, original	350
1869	NGC Proof-55, some marks	250
1870-CC	PCGS F-12, cleaned	6500
1871	NGC MS-64, gorgeous	1500
1871-S	VG/AG+, rare	350
1871-S	Fine, old cleaning	550
1871-S	Sharp EF	1250
1872-CC	VG/AG+, original	550
1872-CC	PCGS Good-4, original	595
1872-S	VF, reverse scratch	2300
1873	NA, Closed 3, VG/G-, dark	165
1875-S	PCGS MS-63, brilliant	1200
1881	PCGS Proof-63, gorgeous	475

QUARTERS

1882	SEGS Proof-63, brilliant	\$450
1882	NGC MS-64, bright white	1250
1884	Good/Fair, original	195
1884	NGC Proof-62	395
1884	PCGS MS-63, original	775
1884	ICG MS-64, bright white	1100
1885	PCGS MS-63	795
1886	ICG MS-65, blazing white	2400
1887	PCGS Proof-62	375
1889	NGC MS-64, bright white	950
1890	PCGS Proof-63, nice	540
1891	ANACS MS-64, brilliant	625

HALF DOLLARS

1844-O	Doubled Date, VG, cleaned	\$495
1844-O	Doubled Date, VG, nice	650
1844-O	Doubled Date, ICG VG-8	650
1849	Doubled Date, SEGS Good-6	1650
1856-S	No Drapery, VG, original	110
1873	WA, PCGS MS-63, brilliant	1900
1873-CC	WA, ANACS Good-4	100
1880	Good, full rims	180
1880	VG-, old cleaning	185
1881	Good+, darkly toned	220
1883	ANACS VG-8, lightly cleaned	240
1885	VF+, nice	365
1886	Good+, scarce	350
1886	VG, old cleaning	360
1887	PCGS VG-8, old cleaning	435
1887	NGC Fine-15, cleaned	465
1887	NGC VF-30, lightly cleaned	535
1887	NGC XF-40, lightly cleaned	625
1889	VG++, nice toning	225
1889	ANACS EF-40	330

SEATED DOLLARS

1850-O	Good, full rims	\$220
1866	EF, some dark toning	495
1872-S	ANACS Fine-15, toned	450

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OUR PLEDGE

To encourage, promote and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

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Liberty Seated Quarters in Fine Condition

by

Carson Torpey



After building a nice type set of Liberty Seated quarters in grades from XF to AU, I decided to work on a date set for this series of 19th century silver coins. Since many of the coins in the series are very rare and quite expensive in the higher circulated grades, I decided to work on a set in the grade of FINE. This is generally considered to be the minimum acceptable grade for most collectors because FINE grade coins still show much of the original design detail in spite of visible wear on the main device. I hoped that collecting the coins in just one grade would give the set a nice uniform look. At first I bought coins from the local coin shops so that I could examine each piece before I purchased it. After a while I began buying these quarters from Coin World ads and have now purchased coins from twelve different dealers.

As the coins arrived by mail order, I noticed that the pieces did not always match the description listed in the grading books for the FINE grade. Collectors know that the grading standards used by a particular dealer are listed in their ads. Most dealers use the ANA grading standards, but Photograde and Brown & Dunn are also quoted grading reference books. I know that grading is often debated for uncirculated coins but I thought that standards would be more uniform for well circulated pieces.

I have found very few references in the Gobrecht Journal on the grading of Liberty Seated quarters and the reference book by Larry Briggs on this series does not include a section on grading. The ANA grading books have only one small photograph or drawing for coins of each grade. This is also true for Photograde and Brown & Dunn while the Red Book gives only a description for each grade. What I needed was a guide showing many large pictures for coins of various dates in the FINE grade. I wanted to know what details I should expect to see on coins of this grade and what

features would be worn on these coins. I wanted to know what coins in FINE condition would look like so that I could properly evaluate a coin that I was interested in purchasing. I realize however that putting together a grading book of this kind would be a tremendous undertaking.

In this article I have attempted to provide more detailed descriptions for Liberty Seated quarters in the FINE grade. This is an ideal grade to study because these coins show considerable wear, making it easy to identify those features which quickly fade from the design as a coin circulates from person to person. I want to make it clear that I am not trying to define the grade of FINE. I am only presenting coins that have been graded FINE by different dealers so that the reader has a better understanding of what features he should expect to see on coins of this grade. The definition for the grade of FINE from the various grading guides is as follows for Liberty Seated quarters:

Definition for the FINE grade

Photograde: There will be a full LIBERTY on the shield but it will not be sharp.

Brown & Dunn: All seven letters of the word LIBERTY on shield must show although letters L and I will be weak.

The Red Book: LIBERTY complete, but partly weak.

ANA Grading Standards: Some details show in hair, cap, and at the shoulder and breast. All shield lines and letters of LIBERTY are weak but visible. Foot and sandal are separated.

The grading guides agree that all seven letters in the word LIBERTY must show for the FINE grade. They also allow for some letters to be weak but they do not explain what this means. It quickly became apparent that the coins I purchased did not always match the descriptions provided by the grading guides. It was clear that coins from different periods in the series showed different wear patterns from those described for the FINE grade.

After studying many coins in the series I have found that there are three distinct types of Liberty Seated quarters, each with their own patterns of wear through circulation. These three types would be the Without Drapery Type from 1838 to 1840, the With Drapery Type from 1840 to 1859 and the With Drapery Longacre-Paquet Type from 1860 to 1891. Similar wear patterns are described for the other Seated series in the guide to the Seated half dime series by Al Blythe, in the guide to the Seated dime series by Brian Greer and in the guide to the Seated half dollar series by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert.

I will show examples for each of the Seated quarter types in FINE condition so that the wear pattern of each type can be observed by the reader. A chart describing a number of coins from each type has been included. This chart contains information that can be used to compare each coin to the definition for the grade of FINE in the ANA grading guide, the most complete description for this grade in the reference guides.



1839 Quarter in FINE



1840-O Quarter in FINE

**Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Obverse - Without Drapery Type 1838 - 1840**

1839 - A nice coin with full clear rims. Some features in the design are not cut as deeply as they are for the later types. The hair, cap and foot are worn smooth. Much of the design in the gown is worn away. The weakest letter on the ribbon is the R in LIBERTY. The L and the Y are stronger than is typical for later types.

1840-O - The master die has been changed for this year. The rim and denticles, as well as the rock, shield and ribbon have been modified. The higher relief of the design gives more detail in the gown, foot, sandal and ribbon. There is less detail in the rock and the shield. The weakest letter on the ribbon is the T in LIBERTY.

Coins of this type do not generally fit the description for the grade of FINE in the grading guides. The middle letters in LIBERTY tend to show the most wear and are generally the weakest. There is little separation of the foot and sandal and very little hair detail. The rock and shield usually show most of their design detail.

**Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Obverse - With Drapery Type 1840 - 1859**

1841-O - There is some weakness on the Y in LIBERTY. The outline of the ear has completely worn away. There is very little hair detail but the shield lines are all fairly strong. There is clear separation in the foot and sandal. There is more wear on the breast and legs than is typical for this grade.



1842-O Quarter in FINE



1845 Quarter in FINE

**Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Obverse - With Drapery Type 1840 - 1859**

1842-O - The upper part of the L is worn away and there is some weakness at the base of the TY in LIBERTY. The outline of the ear is weak but visible. The shield lines are mostly sharp with some weakness along the left side of the shield. There is clear separation in the foot and sandal. There is generally more gown detail than on coins from the earlier type.

1845 - The upper part of the L is worn away and there is some weakness at the top of the I. There is also some weakness at the base of the Y in LIBERTY. The outline of the ear is completely worn away and much of the hair detail is gone. There is clear separation of the foot and sandal. The shield lines are sharp but there is some weakness along the left side of the shield.

1848 - Part of the L is missing but otherwise the letters on the ribbon are well defined. Much of the hair detail has been worn away but the outline of the ear is still visible.

1849 - The upper part of the L is worn away and there is some weakness at the top of the I. There is also some weakness at the base of the Y in LIBERTY. There is very little hair detail and the outline of the ear is worn away. Most of the shield lines are sharp with some weakness on the left side of the shield.

1850 - The upper part of the L is worn away. There is little hair detail and the outline of the ear is worn away. All of the shield lines are sharp and clear.

1852 - The upper part of the L is worn away. There is little hair detail and the outline of the ear is worn away. Most of the shield lines are sharp with some weakness on the left side of the shield.



**Obverse Shield of 1839
Quarter in FINE**



**Obverse Shield of 1849
Quarter in FINE**

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition

Obverse - With Drapery Type 1840 - 1859

1857 - All letters in LIBERTY are complete and all of the shield lines are clear and well defined. There is little hair detail and the outline of the ear has been worn away.

1858 - All letters in LIBERTY are complete and all of the shield lines are clear and well defined. There is little hair detail but part of the outline of the ear is still visible.

1859 - The upper part of the L is worn away. There is little hair detail and the outline of the ear has been almost completely worn away. The shield lines are mostly complete but there is some weakness on the left side of the shield.

This appears to be the type that the grading guides used for their descriptions of the FINE grade. Details are bolder than on the previous type and they do not wear away as quickly. There are two specific features not described in the grading standards that should be mentioned. All of the coins of this type show the opening in the cap in the FINE grade. In addition, the line separating Liberty's gown from the rock is nearly complete except where it crosses her ankle. There are only minor spots where this line fades through wear.



1863 Quarter in FINE



1869-S Quarter in FINE

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition

Obverse - With Drapery Longacre-Paquet Type 1860 - 1891

1860-O - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the serifs of the L and Y. There is no separation in the foot and sandal and the outline of the ear has been worn away. There is no opening in the cap.

1862 - The serifs of the L and Y are weak but visible. The vertical shield lines are worn but separated. The hemline is complete except where it crosses Liberty's foot. The opening in the cap is still visible.

1863 - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for some weakness in the serifs of the L and Y. There is weakness in the shield lines with some of them worn together. There is very little hair detail and the outline of the ear is almost completely worn away. There is no opening in the cap.

1868-S - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the top serifs of the LI and the bottom part of the Y. There is very little hair detail and the ear has been completely worn away. There is almost no separation in the foot and sandal and there is no opening in the cap.

1869-S - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the top serif of the L and the bottom part of the Y. There is little hair detail, almost no separation in the foot and sandal and no opening in the cap.

1870 - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the lower part of the Y. There is almost no hair detail and the hemline has been almost completely worn away. Some of the shield lines below the ribbon are weak and not separated. There is no opening in the cap.

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition

Obverse - With Drapery Longacre-Paquet type 1860-1891

1871 - The letters in LIBERTY are all complete but not sharp. All of the shield lines are clear and separated. There is no separation of the foot and sandal and the outline of the ear is completely worn away. There is an opening in the cap.

1874 - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the lower part of the Y. Some of the shield lines below the ribbon are weak and not separated. There is no separation of the foot and sandal and no opening in the cap.

1876 - The letters in LIBERTY are complete except for the lower part of the Y. There is clear separation of the foot and sandal and there is a visible opening in the cap.

1877-CC - The letters LI in LIBERTY are very weak and their upper serifs are missing. The bottom half of the Y is worn away. The head is well worn with very little hair detail and the outline of the ear is worn away.

1878 - The letter L in LIBERTY is very weak, its upper part missing. There is very little hair detail and no outline of the ear. There is good separation in the foot and sandal but only a small opening in the cap.

1890 - The letters LI in LIBERTY have weak serifs while the lower part of the Y is worn away. There is no separation of the foot and sandal and no opening in the cap.

1891-S - The letters in LIBERTY are complete. There is very little hair detail and only the bottom part of the ear still shows. There is clear separation of the foot and sandal.

Examples of this type are more difficult to grade and doubts about their grade frequently arise. The master die was modified in 1860 and the design features do not appear to be cut as deeply as those on the earlier type. I have seen coins of this type that would grade AU but with weaker details than on lower grade coins of the earlier type.

Reverses of Seated Quarters in FINE

The design features on the reverses of FINE grade coins also show distinct wear patterns for the three types of Liberty Seated quarters described earlier. Expected wear on the reverses of these coins will be described in the listing below.

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition

Reverse - Without Drapery Type 1838 - 1840

1839 - Wear shows on neck feathers and through the feathers of the right wing. Arrow feathers are separated from each other and from the stem. Left border lines worn together.

1840-O - Few details remain on neck feathers and wear shows through feathers of right wing. Arrow feathers and stem are worn together. Left border lines worn together.



**Reverse of 1842-O
Quarter in FINE**



**Reverse of 1845
Quarter in FINE**

**Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Reverse - With Drapery Type 1840 - 1865**

1841-O - Very little detail remains on the neck feathers and on the horizontal shield lines with the eagle's neck worn into the shield. Left border lines worn together.

1842-O - Wear clearly visible on neck feathers and through feathers of right wing. Arrow feathers separated from stem but top feathers nearly worn smooth. Left border lines show some separation.

1845 - Wear clearly visible on neck feathers and through feathers of right wing. Good detail in arrow feathers with separation of left border lines.

1848 - Wear most visible on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Good separation in arrow feathers but very little separation in left border lines.

1849 - Wear on neck feathers and on feathers on the right wing with some of the horizontal shield lines worn smooth. Arrow feathers separated from stem but top feathers worn smooth. Limited separation in left border lines.

1850 - Some wear shows on neck feathers, on feathers of right wing and on the horizontal shield lines. Some separation in left border lines.

1852 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Some separation in left border lines.

1857 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Some separation in left border lines.

1858 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Strong separation in left border lines.

1859 - Wear clearly shows on neck feathers and on feathers of the right wing. Very little separation in left border lines.

1860-O - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Good separation in left border lines.

Coins of this type show more detail in the arrow feathers and better separation of the left border lines than the earlier type. A new reverse design was introduced into the Seated quarter series in 1859 but the old reverse continued to be used at the branch mints through 1865.



**Reverse of 1863
Quarter in FINE**



**Reverse of 1869-S
Quarter in FINE**

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition

Reverse - With Drapery Longacre-Paquet Type 1859 - 1891

1862 - Wear shows on the neck feathers and on the feathers of the right wing. Good separation in left border lines.

1863 - Few details remain on neck feathers and wear shows on the feathers of the right wing. Arrow feathers are worn nearly smooth. No separation in left border lines.

1868-S - Wear shows on the neck feathers and on the feathers of the right wing. Limited separation in left border lines.

1869-S - Wear shows on neck feathers and on the feathers of the right wing. Very little detail remains on the arrow feathers. Very little separation in left border lines.

1870 - Very little detail remains on neck feathers and the feathers on the right wing show limited detail. Arrow feathers worn nearly smooth. No separation in left border lines.

1871 - All of the feathers show detail except for the right wing tip. Some separation in left border lines.

1874 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on the feathers of the right wing. Very little separation in left border lines.

1876 - Some of the horizontal shield lines worn together. Full detail in arrow feathers. Some separation in left border lines.

1877-CC - Very little detail on neck feathers. Wear shows on feathers of right wing. Little detail remains in arrow feathers. Some separation in left border lines.

1878 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Arrow feathers show little detail.

1890 - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Arrow feathers show little detail.

1891-S - Wear shows on neck feathers and on feathers of right wing. Arrow feathers show wear.

The design details of this type do not appear to be as deeply cut as those of the previous type. Most coins of this type do not have much separation in the left border lines in the FINE grade.

Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Obverse Wear Patterns

- Letters** - Complete and clear letters in LIBERTY
Lines - Percent of vertical shield lines that are clear and separated
Hair - Percent of hair detail showing
Foot - Percent separation of foot and sandal
Hemline - Percent of hemline that is clear and separated
Ear - Percent of outline of ear showing
Cap - Percent of opening in cap that is showing

Without Drapery Type 1838 - 1840

Date	Letters	Lines	Hair	Foot	Hemline	Ear	Cap
1839	LIBE_TY	70	30	5	80	0	0
1840-O	LIBER__	100	25	60	80	0	0

With Drapery Type 1840 - 1859

Date	Letters	Lines	Hair	Foot	Hemline	Ear	Cap
1841-O	LIBERT_	90	30	90	60	0	100
1842-O	_IBERTY	90	40	90	80	70	80
1845	_IBERTY	90	25	90	80	0	50
1848	_IBERTY	90	30	60	80	70	80
1849	_IBERTY	90	30	60	80	0	100
1850	_IBERTY	100	40	90	80	0	100
1852	_IBERTY	90	40	70	80	0	100
1857	LIBERTY	100	40	80	80	0	100
1858	LIBERTY	100	40	60	80	20	100
1859	_IBERTY	90	40	50	80	10	100

With Drapery Longacre-Paquet Type 1860 - 1891

Date	Letters	Lines	Hair	Foot	Hemline	Ear	Cap
1860-O	LIBERT_	80	25	0	50	0	0
1862	LIBERTY	100	50	80	90	40	80
1863	LIBERTY	50	15	40	70	10	0
1868-S	LIBERT_	90	20	5	60	0	0
1869-S	LIBERT_	100	30	5	80	10	0
1870	LIBERT_	50	10	0	0	0	0
1871	LIBERTY	100	40	0	50	0	80
1874	LIBERT_	50	15	0	50	0	0
1876	LIBERT_	80	25	80	80	20	50
1877-CC	_IBERT_	70	15	10	60	0	10
1878	_IBERTY	90	20	80	60	0	10
1890	LIBERT_	80	10	0	70	0	0
1891-S	LIBERTY	100	20	90	90	20	20

**Liberty Seated Quarters in FINE Condition
Reverse Wear Patterns**

Neck - Percent of neck detail remaining
Lines - Percent of horizontal lines remaining
Wing - Percent of right wing detail remaining
Arrows - Percent of arrow feather detail remaining
Side - Percent separation in left side border lines

Without Drapery Type 1838 - 1840

Date	Neck	Lines	Wing	Arrows	Side
1839	30	100	50	30	0
1840-O	20	80	50	10	0

With Drapery Type 1840 - 1865

Date	Neck	Lines	Wing	Arrows	Side
1841-O	10	10	50	50	0
1842-O	50	100	50	60	50
1845	30	100	40	80	60
1848	40	100	30	80	20
1849	60	70	30	70	30
1850	70	80	60	80	40
1852	50	100	50	80	50
1857	50	90	50	80	50
1858	50	100	70	90	90
1859	30	100	50	80	20
1860-O	50	100	50	80	60

With Drapery Longacre-Paquet Type 1859 - 1891

Date	Neck	Lines	Wing	Arrows	Side
1862	50	100	40	50	80
1863	20	80	20	10	0
1868-S	30	100	50	50	30
1869-S	20	90	40	20	10
1870	10	80	20	10	0
1871	70	100	50	60	40
1874	40	100	40	50	10
1876	60	60	50	100	40
1877-CC	10	80	20	20	40
1878	30	80	30	30	30
1890	50	80	50	30	30
1891-S	50	80	40	50	30

All of the grading guides say that LIBERTY must be complete for the FINE grade, but imply that some of the letters may be weak. For the 25 coins described in this article, only two have a really complete LIBERTY. All of the other coins are missing at least a serif or two on some of the letters. For the With Drapery types it is most likely that the top part of the L and the bottom part of the Y will show the most wear. Most of the coins in the list look very much alike with wear visible in most of the same places.

This material has been presented to give the reader a better idea of the features that he should expect to see on coins in the FINE grade. I would like to hear from other collectors who have additional information on this subject. The Seated quarter series contains a long list of rare dates that are difficult to obtain in grades approaching mint state. Nice circulated coins still possess most of the design details that make these pieces so attractive to the interested collector. They also provide an opportunity for many more individuals to collect these beautiful coins from the 19th century.

I would like to thank Tom Mulvaney for the pictures of the circulated quarters that have appeared with this article. It would not have been possible to present this information as effectively without his pictures to illustrate the wear patterns on coins in the FINE grade.



**Reverse of 1839
Quarter in FINE**



**Reverse of 1840-O
Quarter in FINE**

Coins are from my collection. Many have been stored in paper craft envelopes for over 50 years and are beautifully toned.

HALF DIMES

1839	MS-63, blue gray	\$395
1840	No Drapery, MS-63	350
1849/8	MS-63, full strike	525
1852	MS-64, full head	375
1853	No Arrows, EF-45, nice	235
1853-O	No Arrows, ANACS F-12	375
1856	MS-63, amber toning	185
1857-O	MS-62, blue & violet	235
1858	MS-62, amber toning	165
1858-O	AU-55, nice	185
1860-O	MS-62, blue & amber	165
1862	MS-62, golden toning	155
1864	Proof-64, blue edges	950
1865	PCI Proof-63	750
1865-S	AU-55, triple 18	575
1866-S	SEGS EF-40	130
1867-S	EF-45, blue & gold	235
1869	ANACS MS-60, amber	225
1870	MS-63, prooflike	175
1873-S	MS-62, amber	155

DIMES

1838-O	NGC VF-25	\$290
1843-O	EF-40	500
1845-O	EF-45, gray	750
1853	No Arrows, VF-20	165
1856-S	VF-35	525
1858-S	F-15	180
1859-S	VF-30	625
1860-O	F-15, gray	795
1860-S	AU-55, blue & amber	925
1862-S	AU-50	575
1865-S	VF-35, gray	170
1867-S	EF-40	195
1869	Proof-62	325
1870	ANACS Proof-63	650
1872-S	EF-40	235
1876	Proof-63	330
1877	Proof-63	600
1879	Proof-64, amber	800
1880	MS-64, repunched 8	700
1882	MS-65	350

DIMES

1883	MS-63	\$225
1884-S	AU-55	275
1885-S	ANACS EF-40	2075
1886	SEGS MS-63	235
1886-S	AU-55	245
1887	MS-64	210
1888	MS-65, full luster	325
1888-S	MS-63, silver luster	235
1890	MS-64, white	275
1891	MS-64	235

QUARTERS

1839	SEGS AU-58	\$780
1841-O	SEGS MS-62	900
1844-O	AU-50, unlisted	325
1845	1845/1845, AU-55	300
1848	1848/1848, EF-40, dark	250
1856-S	F/VF, gray	170
1857	PCGS MS-61, white	325
1858-S	VF-35, Briggs 2-B	450
1859-S	EF/AU, full strike	1800
1861	MS-61	325
1861-S	VF-35, Briggs 1-A	525
1862-S	EF-40, original	495
1863	EF-40, strong strike	170
1864	EF-45, nice	300
1865	AU-50	350
1865-S	F-15, scarce	200
1867	MS-62	900
1868	AU-55, blue & amber	450
1869-S	VF-20, Briggs 1-A	550
1870	Proof-65, super	1200
1877	MS-64, prooflike	410
1878	MS-64, nice luster	550
1879	AU-50, halo toning	350
1880	MS-65, white luster	800
1881	Proof-65, die hairlines	700
1882	Proof-62, white	550
1884	SEGS EF-45, Briggs 1-A	400
1885	EF-45	400
1887	SEGS Proof-58	525
1888-S	MS-63, beautiful	525
1891	MS-61, rainbow toning	185

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Die Marriages for 1851 Half Dollars

by

Dick Osburn

The 1851 half dollar has long been one of the most elusive dates in the entire Seated half dollar series. I estimated that fewer than 150 pieces of this date were available to collectors in my rarity guide to the half dollars series in Issue #76 of the journal. This is an unusually small surviving population from a reported mintage of 200,750 pieces. I consider this date to be the second rarest regular issue Seated half dollar behind only the 1878-S date.

It is assumed that the actual mintage for the 1851 half dollar is equal to the reported mintage of 200,750 pieces. It is believed that many of these coins were melted due to the rising price of silver shortly after they were struck. I showed that the average survival rate for Seated half dollars was around 0.4% of the total mintage in my rarity guide to the series. With fewer than 150 surviving examples for the 1851 half dollar, this issue would have a survival rate of less than 0.075%. This fact alone would indicate that other forces were actively reducing the surviving population for coins of this date.

Although examples of the 1851 half dollar are very rare, I have been able to identify 4 different obverse dies and 5 different reverse dies for this issue. These dies were used to produce 8 distinct die marriages for this date. Die life studies for this period indicate that this number of dies could easily have supported the reported mintage of 200,750 coins. The number of known dies for this date supports the theory that many of these coins were melted during the 19th century. This date is also seldom



1851 Half Dollar, Obverse 1, Normal Date

seen in grades below VF, indicating that most of the surviving examples were pulled from circulation shortly after they were struck. In fact coins of this date are as easy to find in grades approaching mint state as they are in a well circulated grade. Information is provided below describing the characteristics of each of the dies used to strike 1851 half dollars. Pictures of the key characteristics are provided for each of the dies used during this year. Die combinations are given so that it is easier to identify the 8 known die marriages for this date.

Obverse 1

Die State 1a - Normal Date. Date slightly high in field and sloping slightly downward from left to right. Tip of shield over right side of space between 18. Right edge of base of first 1 over gap between two denticles. Small lump on first 1, just above serif. Most coins have a die crack which extends from the upper right corner of the second 1 and runs through the rock to the denticles just below the toe. Later states have two additional cracks. One begins in the rock just to the left of the first 1 and extends on through the rock and through the first two stars. Another crack begins in the field below the nose and extends through the head and then to the denticles above the 8th star. This die is often found with die bounce doubling.

Die State 1b - The cracks on the die for this state are nearly identical to those described for the late die state above.

Obverse 2

Die State 2a - 18 recut south. Strong doubling visible above the serif of the first 1 and across the top of the 8. Date slightly high in field. Right edge of base of first 1 over left side of denticle. Tip of shield over left side of 8. No die cracks observed for this die state.

Die State 2b - Two die cracks have been observed in this die state. One begins in the rock to the right of the date and runs below the foot to the denticles to the right



1851 Half Dollar, Obverse 2, 18 Recut South

of the toes. The other crack begins at the rim below the 1st star and runs through the left end of the rock and then back to the denticles below the left end of the ribbon.

Obverse 3

Die State 3a - Blundered 1 with top of extra 1 visible between 51. Date slightly high in field. Very small tine on upper left side of first 1 between serif and top of digit. Right edge of base of first 1 centered over denticle. Tip of shield nearly centered over space between 18. No die cracks have been observed on examples in this die state.

Die State 3b - Examples in this die state have three die cracks. One runs from the field on the left, through the base of all four digits in the date and into the field to the right. Another crack runs from the 7th star, through the head and 8th star, across the top of the cap and to the denticles above the 9th star. A very light crack connects the first two stars.

Die State 3c - This die state shows the same characteristics as die state 3b.

Obverse 4

Top of extra 8 in denticles below right side of 8 in date. Date high in field. Small tine off upper right side of first 1. Right edge of base of first 1 over right side of denticle. Tip of shield over left edge of 8.

Reverse A

Die State Aa - Clashing within recesses of the shield and under the right wing. Several die lumps in the unfinished areas between the leaves.

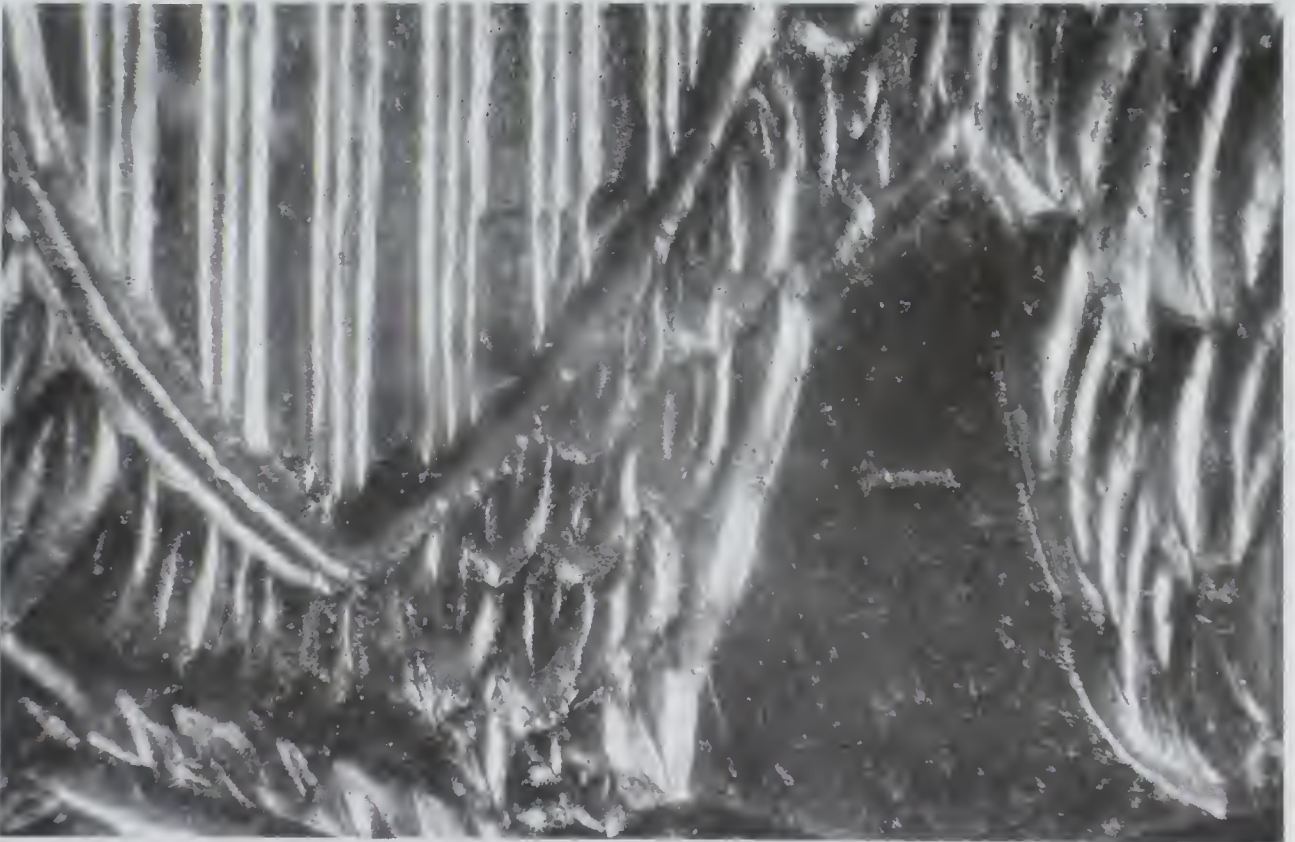
Die State Ab - In this state there are signs of die polishing to remove the clash marks. Clashing under the right wing is no longer visible.



1851 Half Dollar, Obverse 3, Blundered 1



1851 Half Dollar, Obverse 4, Extra 8 in Denticles



1851 Half Dollar, Reverse A, Clashing in Shield

Reverse B

The first group of three vertical shield lines shows multiple extensions that run up through the horizontal shield lines and then on into the feathers. There is a repaired defect at the top of the first group of three vertical shield lines. There are clash marks in the recesses of the shield.

Reverse C

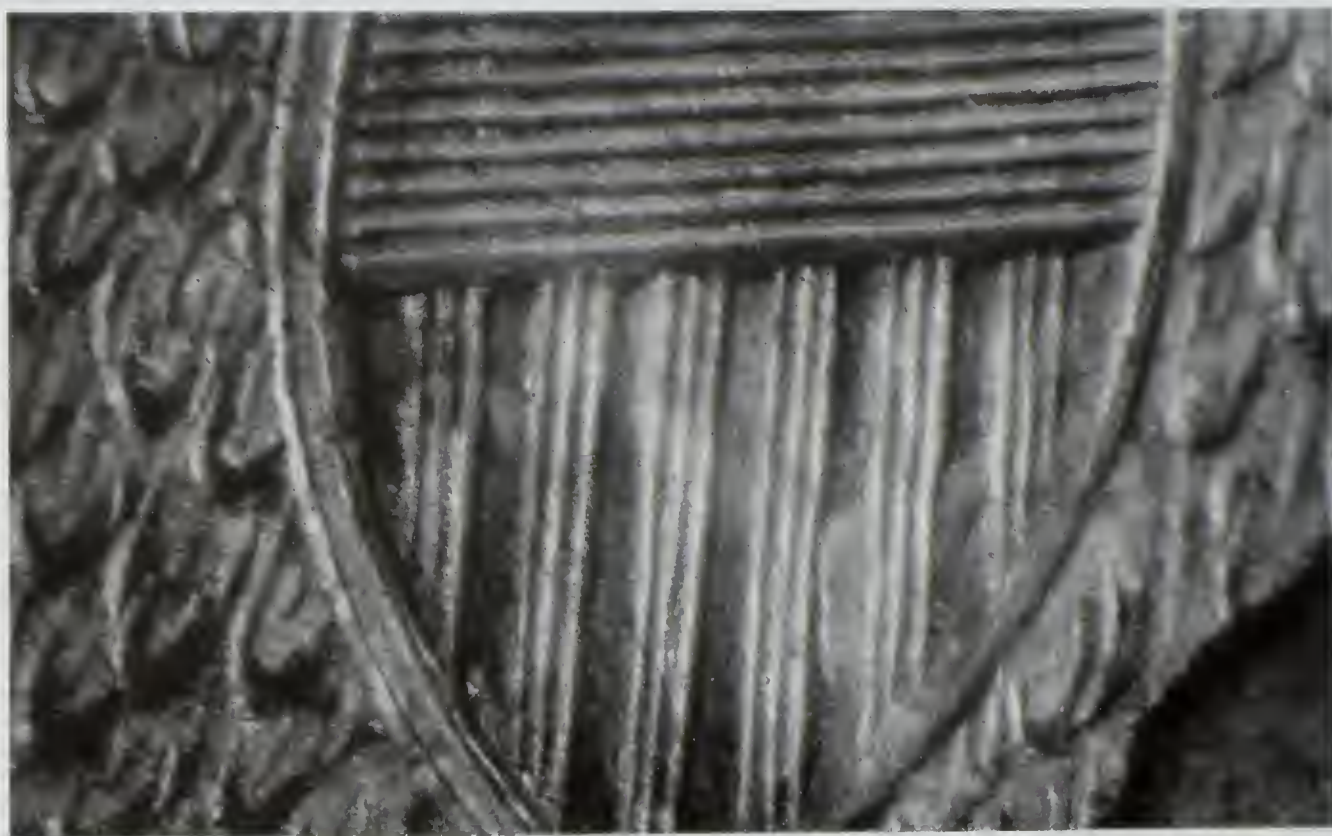
Die State Ca - There are heavy die lines that run at a slant down through the recesses of the shield. Light clashing. There are die polish lines on top of the clash marks within the shield.

Die State Cb - Die has clashed again, obliterating some of the die polish lines seen on top of the clash marks described in previous die state.

Reverse D

Die State Da - There are heavy die lines that slant up through the recesses of the shield. There are heavy die lines in the unfinished areas between the leaves.

Die State Db - Die polishing has removed some of the die lines between the leaves described in the previous die state.



**1851 Half Dollar, Reverse B,
Repaired Defect in Shield**



1851 Half Dollar, Reverse C, Die Polish Lines in Shield



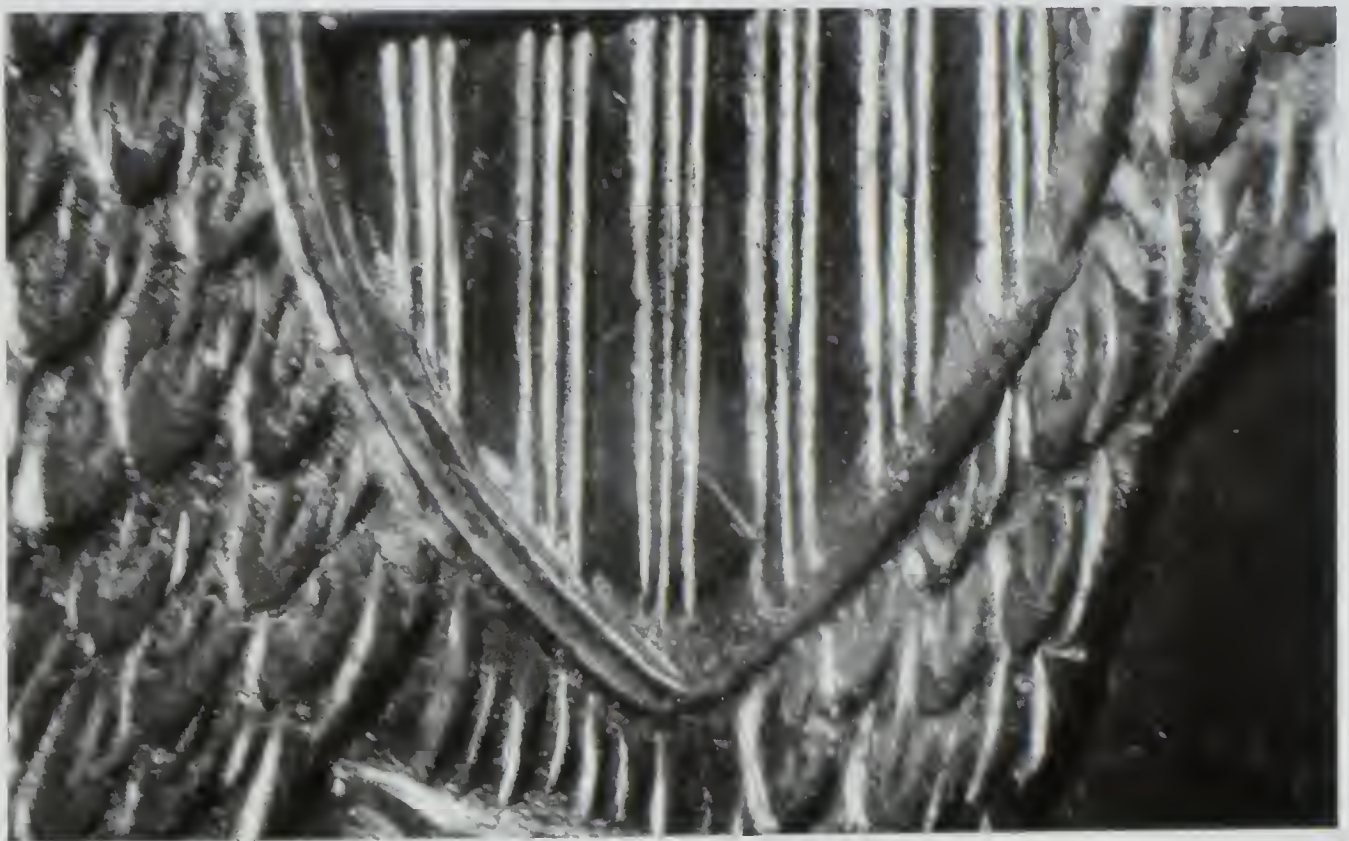
1851 Half Dollar, Reverse D, Die Lines in Shield

Reverse E

There is a significant die scratch in the lower part of the shield, between the third and fourth groups of three vertical shield lines. This reverse was also used to strike 1850 half dollars and was pictured in Issue #32 of the journal.

Die Marriages for 1851 Half Dollars

Die Marriage	Obverse Die	Reverse Die	Wiley-Bugert Identification Number	Estimated Percentage of Surviving Population
1	1a	Ab	WB-101	25%
2	1b	Da	WB-101	10%
3	2a	Cb	WB-102	5%
4	2b	Aa	WB-102	15%
5	3a	E	WB-103	10%
6	3b	B	WB-103	15%
7	3c	Ca	WB-103	15%
8	4	Db	WB-104	5%



1851 Half Dollar, Reverse E,
Die Line in Shield

Characteristics of the 8 known die marriages for the 1851 half dollar have been presented in this article. I would be interested in hearing from club members who own examples of the 1851 half dollar. If you own examples of any of the die marriages described in the article, please report the grades and die marriages for the pieces that you own. I would be interested in knowing about coins from dies not described in this article as well as pieces from die combinations not listed in the table. I would also be interested in hearing about coins struck in different die states from those reported in this article. I will use any information received to refine the rarity estimates for the die marriages that I have described in this article. I can be reached by regular mail as follows: Dick Osburn, P.O. Box 596, Kemah, Texas 77565. I can be reached by telephone at (281) 334-2476 and by E-mail at: osburnrk@iwl.net.

References

1. An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Half Dollars by Dick Osburn, The Gobrecht Journal, Issue #76, November 1999.
2. The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert, DLRC Press, 1993.
3. Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins by Walter Breen, FCI Press, 1988.



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A New 1875-S Micro s Dime

by

Tim Cook

A few changes in the preparation of coinage dies led to some interesting varieties for Seated dimes in 1875. Arrows had appeared at the date on 1873 and 1874 dimes to indicate a change to the new metric weight for silver coins. These arrows were removed in January 1875 even though the planchets continued to be prepared at the new metric weight. There were 24,065,700 dimes struck at the United States mint during 1875, the largest number of dimes produced in a single year up to this time. The large number of coinage dies used to strike this record number of dimes created a great potential for die varieties of this date.

Nearly 40% of the dimes produced during 1875 were struck at the San Francisco branch mint. The 1875-S dime is still very common with three mintmark styles known for this date. There is the Medium S mintmark positioned in the wreath and the Small s and the Micro s mintmarks positioned below the wreath. The 1875-S dime is the only date of this era with the mintmark positioned both in the wreath and below the wreath. This date is also the first dime since the 1860-S issue with the San Francisco mintmark positioned in the wreath.

Seated dime researcher Gerry Fortin reports that he has identified 9 different die pairs for the 1875-S dime. Most of these die varieties have a Medium S mintmark positioned in the wreath. The Small s mintmark positioned below the wreath was previously thought to be the most common of the three mintmark styles for this date. However more die varieties with the Small s mintmark may still be identified with additional research. The Micro s mintmark positioned below the wreath has always been the scarcest of the three mintmark styles for this date. Coins with this mintmark style often come from heavily cracked dies and they are most often weakly struck. Only two die pairs of this style were described by Kam Ahwash in his encyclopedia on the Seated dime series. These were the A-5 and A-6 varieties for this date. Descriptions for these two varieties are as follows:

1875-S A-5 Dime

Obverse 5 - Date sloping downward from left to right. Shield Position SP-8.5 with the left tip of the 1 below the space between the 8th and 9th vertical shield lines. Denticle Ruler measurement DR-1R with the left base of the 1 over the right side of the first denticle to the right of the shield tip. Broken first S in STATES. Die crack begins at left base and runs up through UNITE and on to rim above D. Another crack runs from STATES through forehead, from back of head to tip of cap and across top of O to rim over F in OF.

Reverse 5 - Micro s mintmark centered in field below wreath. Filled s mintmark. Left edge of s mintmark over right edge of denticle. Right edge of s mintmark over left edge of denticle. Weakness on bow knot. Die crack from the cereal wreath on the left, through the lower part of the bow knot and into the wreath on the right and up into the corn ear. A crack also runs from the rim through the left ribbon tip and up



Obverse of 1875-S A-5 Dime



Reverse of 1875-S A-5 Dime with Filled Micro s Mintmark

through the leaves on the left side of the wreath. Another crack runs from the rim at 8 o'clock up through the leaves and then back to the rim at 10 o'clock. Still another crack runs from the rim at 12 o'clock, down through the wheat and corn ear on the right, through the leaves and then to the rim at 2 o'clock.

1875-S A-6 Dime

Obverse 6 - Level date a little low in field. Shield Position SP-8 with left tip of 1 below 8th vertical shield line. Denticle Ruler measurement DR-1L with the left base of the 1 over the left side of the first denticle to the right of the shield tip. Partially broken first S in STATES.

Reverse 6 - Micro s mintmark left of center in field below wreath. Filled s mintmark. Left edge of s mintmark over left edge of denticle. Right edge of s mintmark over right side of denticle. Die crack from cereal wreath on the left, through the lower edge of the bow knot and into wreath on the right and up into corn ear.

In his guide to the Seated dime series, Brian Greer mentioned that an 1875-S dime with an unfilled Micro s mintmark was extremely rare. I first obtained an example of this variety at the Michigan State show in 1995. The coin was in a nice XF grade with some weaknesses in the obverse design. Careful study of the coin indicated that it was struck from a new obverse die and a new reverse die for the 1875-S Micro s dime. The obverse of the new variety is similar to Obverse 6 and the reverse is similar to Reverse 5. Information will be provided to identify the dies of



Reverse of 1875-S A-6 Dime with Filled Micro s Mintmark

this new variety which I have called an 1875-S A-7 dime. A complete description of this coin is as follows:

1875-S A-7 Dime

Obverse 7 - Level date centered in field. Shield Position SP-8 with the left tip of the 1 below the 8th vertical shield line. Denticle Ruler measurement DR-1L with the left base of the 1 over the left side of the first denticle to the right of the shield tip. Broken first S in STATES. Die crack begins at the left and runs through the base of the letters in UNITED and on through the letters in STATES to the forehead, and then from the back of the head to the rim. Another crack begins at the R and runs down through the ICA to the foot, and continues from the rock base over the 5 to the left upper tip of the 7 and on into the right side of the upper loop of the 8.

Reverse 7 - Micro s mintmark centered in field below wreath. Strong unfilled s mintmark. Left edge of s mintmark over center of denticle. Right edge of s mintmark over gap between two denticles. Strong bow knot with die crack running through lower portion of the knot. Die cracks connect the upper and middle grain stems at the top of the wreath. Another crack runs from the wreath to the rim at 11 o'clock. There is a small die crack in the leaves on the left side of the wreath. Another crack runs down through the leaves on the right side of the wreath.



Obverse of New 1875-S A-7 Dime

After several years of searching, I was able to purchase a nice uncirculated example of the new 1875-S A-7 dime from Jack Beymer at the ANA Convention in Chicago. I agree with Brian Greer when he states that an 1875-S dime with a strong unfilled Micro s mintmark is very rare. I have been able to identify only two examples with this mintmark over the years. I have also confirmed that this new variety is not merely an early die state of the two previously known Micro s varieties. A detailed study of the three known varieties has provided characteristics that clearly identify each of their dies.

I would be interested in hearing from other collectors who might have additional information on the three varieties described in this article. I would also like to thank Tom Mulvaney for the beautiful pictures of my 1875-S Micro s dimes. His pictures have made it possible to present the detailed descriptions of these interesting coins.



**Reverse of New 1875-S A-7 Dime with
Strong Unfilled Micro s Mintmark**

Hunting for Half Dimes?

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1839	XF-45, sharp original, small mark at 7th star	\$65
1839	NGC MS-61, V-2, recut 9, light toning	275
1840	XF-40, No Drapery, lightly toned	55
1840	SEGS VF-30, With Drapery, nice original	125
1840-O	VF-25, With Drapery, Small o, original, reverse mark	175
1843	XF-40, shattered reverse die	50
1844	XF-45, recut 184, sharp	75
1844-O	VF-25, Small o, upset reverse	450
1844-O	XF-40, Large O, heavy marks on obverse & reverse	150
1846	F-12, old cleaning, a few small marks	495
1848	XF-40, Medium Date, repunched 48, nice	60
1848	AU-50, Large Date, nice white coin	200
1849	AU-55, beautiful gold & rose toning	115
1849-O	VF-35, sharp light gray, no problems	295
1852-O	XF-40, attractive original, no problems	225
1853	VF-30, No Arrows, attractive	130
1853-O	F-12, No Arrows, a few old scratches	375
1858	AU-50, sharp, obverse & reverse clash marks	90
1858	Over Inverted Date, XF-40, dark & light gray	175
1859-O	XF-45, nice strike, light toning	125
1860	AU-40, V-3b, repunched 1 & 0, lustrous	95
1863	G-4, old cleaning, nice	125
1863-S	AU-55, original, fully struck, golden toning	350
1865	G6/VG8, nice, no problems	300
1867-S	VF-35	95
1868	XF-40, nice original	250
1868-S	NGC MS-60, luster	265

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1837	NGC MS-65	\$2400
1840-O	WD, PCGS MS-63	19,500
1841-O	NGC MS-65, choice	8750
1844	NGC MS-65	950
1845	PCGS MS-64	525
1853-O	NA, NGC AU-53	2850
1864	NGC MS-65	1500
1865	NGC MS-63	975
1869	PCGS MS-66, gem	2950
1872-S	NGC MS-65	1250

DIMES

1840	WD, PCGS AU-55	\$875
1842-O	NGC MS-64	6500
1856-S	NGC MS-62	4750
1861-S	PCGS MS-66	18,500
1863	PCGS MS-62++	1400
1863	PCGS AU-58	925
1863-S	NGC MS-64	6750
1864	PCI MS-63, cleaned	875
1866-S	NGC MS-63	5250
1867	PCGS MS-62	1750
1869-S	NGC MS-62	675
1870-S	PCGS MS-65	5500
1874-CC	NGC AU-50	29,500
1876-CC	PCGS MS-63++	450
1879	NGC MS-66	1450
1880	PCGS MS-63	525
1881	NGC MS-65	1450

QUARTERS

1842-O	Small Date, VF	\$1650
1844-O	AU, choice	625
1869	NGC MS-63	2450
1880	NGC MS-63	525
1889	NGC MS-64	780

HALF DOLLARS

1840	Medium Letters, PCGS MS-64	\$12,500
1841	PCGS AU-53	475
1846/6	Horizontal 6, XF-45	720
1847/6	VG-8	3750
1850	NGC MS-63	3750
1850	PCGS AU-55	925
1870-CC	PCGS MS-65	35,000
1872-CC	ANACS XF-45	975
1873-CC	NA, XF-40	1600
1874-CC	NGC XF-40	2250
1878-S	PCGS XF-40	34,500
1878-S	PCGS F-12	22,500

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Observations on the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar

by

James D. Sneddon

As a serious collector of United States Trade Dollars I have been fascinated by the Type I and Type II die varieties in this series. Specifically I have searched extensively for the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar over a period of many years. I have found this variety to be very rare and I believe that it is particularly difficult to obtain in circulated grades. In fact I searched for over ten years before I located an example in EF condition. I have come to believe that this variety is a real rarity in the Trade Dollar series.

I have an extensive collection of auction catalogues dating back more than 25 years. I have searched through all of these catalogues and I have been able to find only 10 attributed examples and another 7 unattributed examples of the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar over this entire period.

I was able to locate 4 unattributed examples of this rare variety in my auction catalogues from the 1980s. The first example that I located was the proof specimen that was sold by Bowers and Ruddy in March 1980 as Lot #728 in the Garrett Sale. There was also a Choice Brilliant Proof-65 example that was sold by Bowers and Merena as Lot #297 in their sale of March 1985. Heritage also sold a coin described as Proof-63/65 in Lot #2024 of their auction in August 1985. I found no other examples of this variety until Bowers and Merena auctioned a coin described as Proof-63 in Lot #395 of their Saccone Collection Sale in November 1989. It seems that the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar was not being attributed by obverse and reverse type during the 1980s. Examples sold during these years have been identified from pictures provided in the auction catalogue.

The first attributed 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar that I located was a PCGS Proof-62 coin sold as Lot #4456 by Bowers and Merena in March 1990. Heritage also sold an unattributed Proof-63 example as Lot #574 in their May 1990 auction. This list shows that the first six examples of this variety that I found in auction catalogues were proof coins.

Not knowing about the rarity of the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar, I started searching for a circulated example of this variety in 1988. The years went by and I failed to locate even one example of the variety in a circulated grade. I placed this coin on my want list with several dealers in grades from VG to AU but I was never notified that an example had been found. I also asked dealers to show me their circulated 1876 Trade Dollars, but none of the coins that I examined turned out to be examples of the Type II/II variety. My failed efforts to locate a circulated example of this variety convinced me that there were very few examples of this rarity available to the collector. It wasn't until after almost ten years of searching that I located an example in an EF-40 grade. The coin was offered for sale by Larry Briggs in May 1998 at almost five times the Trends price for an 1876 Trade Dollar. I purchased it immediately upon seeing the ad because I didn't know when I would have another opportunity to purchase an example of this variety.

The first business strike 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar that I can document for sale at auction was an MS-63 coin in Lot #1845 of the Greenwich Collection Sale by Bowers and Merena in January 1991. This coin was properly attributed as the 1876

Type II/II variety in the catalogue. Another example of this variety was sold by Stack's as Lot #229 in their James A. Stack Collection sale in March 1995. The coin was properly attributed and described as a Choice Brilliant Proof. Stack's also sold an unattributed example of this variety as Lot #1305 in their sale of September 1996. This coin was also described as a Choice Brilliant Proof.

A second business strike of this variety was sold by Stack's as Lot #422 in their sale of October 1996. This coin was described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated with claims to the gem category. Stack's also sold an unattributed example described as Brilliant Proof in Lot #708 of their David Queller Family collection sale in March 1997.

Bowers and Merena sold what may be the finest known Proof example of the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar in their Eliasberg Sale of March 1997. This coin was properly attributed and described as a gem Proof-65/66 in Lot #2339 of that sale. Bowers and Merena also sold an example of this variety in their Rarities Sale in August 1999. This coin was described in Lot #310 as NGC Proof-64 and was part of a complete set of Proof Trade Dollars from 1873 to 1883 that was assembled by a discriminating collector.

The first circulated business strike 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar that I have seen at auction was a piece sold by Heritage in their Philadelphia 2000 Signature Sale. This piece was properly attributed and described in Lot #6208 as polished, AU details, net XF-40. The coin is not pictured in the catalogue but it is described as being polished to a bright sheen. There were also two proof examples of this variety sold by Bowers and Merena in their Sale of the Millennium during the ANA Convention in August 2000. The first piece was described in Lot #4710 as NGC Proof-65 and the other was described in Lot #4712 as Proof-62. Both pieces were properly attributed in the catalogue. In October 2000 Bowers and Merena sold an example described as



**1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar in Proof-62
Condition from Sale of the Millennium**

ANACS AU-55 in Lot #1629 of their Robert Schwan Collection sale. The coin is not pictured in the catalogue but it is described as an example of the Type II/II variety. This is only the second example of this variety that I have encountered at auction that actually saw some limited circulation during the 19th century.

I have also searched for the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar through private sale for a period of many years. I have found that this variety is seldom seen and absent from dealer inventories. Outside of the specimen that I purchased privately from Larry Briggs in 1998, the only other attributed example of this variety that I could find was a chopmarked AU-50 coin in October 1998.

I did find two unattributed examples of this rare variety only recently. One was a chopmarked EF-40 coin that I purchased from a west coast dealer in January 1999. I purchased the coin because it was described as chopmarked. When it arrived by mail, I was very surprised to find that it was an example of the Type II/II variety. I purchased the other unattributed coin from a mail bid sale of another dealer in December 1999. He had described the coin as an 1876 Trade Dollar in EF condition.

Auction Appearances for 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollars

	Grade	Lot Number	Date	Auction Firm
1.	Proof	728	March 1980	Bowers and Ruddy
2.	Proof-65	297	March 1985	Bowers and Merena
3.	Proof-63/65	2024	August 1985	Heritage
4.	Proof-63	395	November 1989	Bowers and Merena
5.	Proof-62	4456	March 1990	Bowers and Merena
6.	Proof-63/63	574	May 1990	Heritage
7.	MS-63	1845	January 1991	Bowers and Merena
8.	Ch. Proof	229	March 1995	Stack's
9.	Ch. Proof	1305	September 1996	Stack's
10.	BU	422	October 1996	Stack's
11.	Br. Proof	708	March 1997	Stack's
12.	Proof-65/66	2339	April 1997	Bowers and Merena
13.	Proof-64	310	August 1999	Bowers and Merena
14.	Net XF-40	6208	August 2000	Heritage
15.	Proof-65	4710	August 2000	Bowers and Merena
16.	Proof-62	4712	August 2000	Bowers and Merena
17.	AU-55	1629	October 2000	Bowers and Merena

I was again surprised to find that the coin was an example of this rare variety when it arrived by mail.

All of the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollars that I have seen have been examples of the Type 2L/2M variety first described by Michael Fazzari in Issue #61 of the journal. All of the proof coins as well as all of the business strike coins have been examples of this variety.

I have found 17 examples of the 1876 Type II/II Trade Dollar in all of the catalogues in my numismatic library. Details of the auction listing for each of these pieces is given in the table. This listing includes 13 proof coins, 2 mint state coins and 2 circulated coins. Ten of these coins were properly attributed in the auction catalogues and the 7 unattributed coins were identified from pictures in the catalogues. All 7 of the unattributed coins were in proof condition. My experience with this issue indicates that the majority of coins of this type are in proof condition.



QUARTERS

1853	Arrows & Rays, PCGS F-15	\$30
1853/4	Cleaned, dig, net F-12	95
1856	EF	50
1862-S	G-6.....	60
1878-CC	AU-55.....	250
1878-CC	ANACS AU-55	265
1890	NGC AU-55	315

HALF DOLLARS

1853	Arrows & Rays, PCGS VF-30	\$95
1855	PCGS AU-53	300
1856-O	PCGS F-12	45
1857	PCGS EF-40	75
1858-O	VG-10.....	30
1858-O	PCGS AU-55	245
1861	AU-50.....	150
1862-S	G4/G6	20
1872-CC	Damaged, net Fair	42
1875-CC	VG	38
1880	PCGS VF-35	325

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Corrections to Gobrecht Dollar Article

Two errors were made in the article "Gobrecht Dollars Revisited, Part I - The Issue of March 1837" that appeared in Issue #79 of the journal. The first error was made on page 3 of Issue #79 in the reference to the 1982 study by Robert W. Julian. The Julian study was a four part article published in Coin World, NOT a four page article as reported in Issue #79. A complete reference to the four issues of Coin World that contained this article is given in Reference #8 on page 14 of Issue #79 of the journal.

A second error was made in the first sentence of the third full paragraph on page 4 of Issue #79. This sentence should read, "We were in total agreement that the Die Alignment I coins were struck in December 1836, that the Die Alignment IV coins were struck in March 1837, and that the Die Alignment III coins were restrikes." At that point the group was not convinced of anything regarding the Die Alignment II coins that they had seen.

Please make these corrections to the original manuscript so that the article can be read in its original form.

The Editor



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The Decline of the Comstock Lode Begins in 1877

by

Weimar W. White

Precious metal production from the mines at the Comstock Lode reached its high point in 1876. Gold and silver ore from the mines in Virginia City was used to produce over six million dollars worth of coins at the Carson City mint during this year. But this record setting production was followed by an unexpected slowdown in operations at the mines in 1877. Three thousand people in the Virginia City area were now unemployed in a total population of about 23,000 residents. Furthermore, mining stocks had fallen to their lowest level in years because the big bonanza of ore in the Comstock Lode had practically terminated at the 1650 foot level in early 1877. Only the Consolidated Virginia and the California mines were still paying dividends to their stock holders during these difficult times.

In November 1877 it was reported that the Ophir mine had struck rich ore at the 1900 foot level. There was again hope that another precious metal ore bonanza was about to begin. This new discovery created a period of excitement for the general public but enthusiasm quickly faded when it was determined that the ore body was not nearly as large as originally expected. By the fall of 1878 over one thousand miners left Virginia City for better opportunities in California.

Meanwhile, the production of coins at the Carson City branch mint was scaled back in 1877 from the record production levels of the two previous years. The 1877-CC half dollar had a mintage of 1,420,000 pieces, a reduction from the nearly two million half dollars struck in Carson City the previous year. The 1878-CC half dollar had a mintage of only 62,000 pieces and this was the last half dollar struck at the Carson City branch mint. Coinage production varied over the next few years but the



Mint State 1877-CC WB-103 Half Dollar

total value of coins produced in Carson City never again approached the record value established in 1876. The heyday of the big bonanza created by the Comstock Lode had come to an end.

Presented with this article is a picture of a gem uncirculated 1877-CC WB-103 half dollar that I recently purchased at a Bowers and Merena auction. This coin is almost as perfect as the day it was minted, but it does have some obverse pimples frequently seen on coins of this date. These surface features were created by using rusted obverse dies to strike half dollars in 1877. However, these surface pimples are original die features and do not detract from the appearance or grade of the coin.

Table 1
Coinage Value for the United States Mint at Carson City

Year	Total Value of Coins
1875	\$4,963,168
1876	6,402,215
1877	3,990,020
1878	2,950,310
1879	1,074,185



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HALF DIMES

1849/8	V-1, PCGS MS-62	\$795
1852	V-3a, MS-65, light toning	975
1853	NA, XF-45, lustrous	250
1853-O	NA, PCGS AU-53	3250
1856	MS-64+, original	675
1860	Transitional, PCGS MS-63	3950
1861/0	V-6, NGC MS-63	995
1863	V-1, NGC MS-64	975
1864	PCGS MS-63	1175
1864-S	MS-62, original	750
1866	MS-65	2750

DIMES

1838	MS-63, obverse die crack	\$595
1841-O	Sm o, Closed bud, G4/AG3	595
1841-O	Lg O, Closed bud, VG10/G4	795
1843	GR-101, NGC MS-62	550
1844	VF-25, bluish toning	795
1845-O	AU-50, lustrous	950
1849-O	Sm o, repunched date, MS-60	1950
1853	NA, MS60/63, beautiful	895
1853	NA, NGC MS-65, frosty	2975
1856-S	SEGS AU-55, old cleaning	1875
1858-S	XF-45	875
1859	9 in skirt, GR-101, AU-58	395
1859-S	VF-35	750
1860-O	SEGS XF-45, old cleaning	2250
1864	AU-58+	750
1865	Proof-63, beautiful	750
1866	MS-65, repunched 1	2550
1867	PCGS MS-63, beautiful	1650
1871-S	Repunched 18, GR-101, MS-60	495
1871-CC	VG-10, slight porosity	1550
1872-CC	PCGS VF-25	3250
1873-CC	PCGS F-15	2950
1874	Repunched 4, PCGS MS-62	795
1874-CC	VG-8, full LIBERTY	4950
1889	ANACS Proof-65	1175

QUARTERS

1838	Open Claws, NGC MS-61	\$1350
1838	Closed Claws, AU-50	395
1840-O	WD, Briggs 2-C, MS-60-	675
1842-O	Small Date, F12/VG8	1150
1849	Briggs 1-A, ANACS MS-61	825
1852-O	Briggs 1-B, PCGS XF-45	2250
1853	No Arrows, NGC VF-35	1650
1853	No Arrows, AU-58, cleaned	2250

QUARTERS

1857-S	Briggs 1-A, NGC MS-62	\$3900
1860-S	ANACS net XF-40, cleaned	2750
1865-S	XF-40, lightly cleaned	525
1866-S	XF-45+, lustrous	1375
1872-S	Briggs 1-A, F-15	1750
1872-S	SEGS VF-20, cleaned	1750
1872-CC	VF-25+, lightly cleaned	2750
1874-S	SEGS MS-63	1550
1875-CC	AU-55, prooflike	675
1877-S	Over horizontal s, MS-63	1750
1879	Briggs 1-A, MS-64, frosty	850
1883	MS63/65	850
1887	Proof-64+	950

HALF DOLLARS

1839	ND, AU-53, original	\$1650
1842-O	Small Date, AU-50-	5900
1842-O	Sm Date, G-6, cleaned	725
1844-O	Doubled Date, PCGS XF-40	2195
1850/0	WB-102, ANACS AU-50	825
1852	AU-55, lightly cleaned	1250
1852-O	XF-40	575
1852-O	ACG AU-50	995
1855-S	VF25/35	1175
1856	Repunched 1, WB-102, XF-40	275
1865	WB-103, VF-35	325
1868	WB-102, VF-35	375
1870-CC	ANACS net AG3, scratched	495
1870-CC	No Drapery, VF-25+	3900
1870-CC	SEGS AU-58, cleaned	19,500
1871-CC	WB-102, VG-8	475
1873	NA, Open 3, WB-101, VF-25+	5500
1873-CC	NA, ANACS VF-35	1075
1873-CC	WA, WB-102, PCGS XF-45	1850
1873-CC	WA, WB-103, NGC AU-55	3750
1874-CC	WB-101, VG-8	440
1878-CC	ANACS F-15, weak BER	625
1886	Proof-60, light toning	595
1887	NGC MS-61, prooflike	1050

SEATED DOLLARS

1842	2 in rock, PCGS MS-60	\$1250
1846-O	AU-53, semi-prooflike	1450
1850-O	ICG AU-53, prooflike	2950
1860-O	NGC MS-61, white surfaces	1200
1864	PCGS AU-55	2250
1870	Proof-60+	1450
1870-CC	NGC AU-58, prooflike	9500

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The Mystery of the Notched 1 for Seated Half Dimes

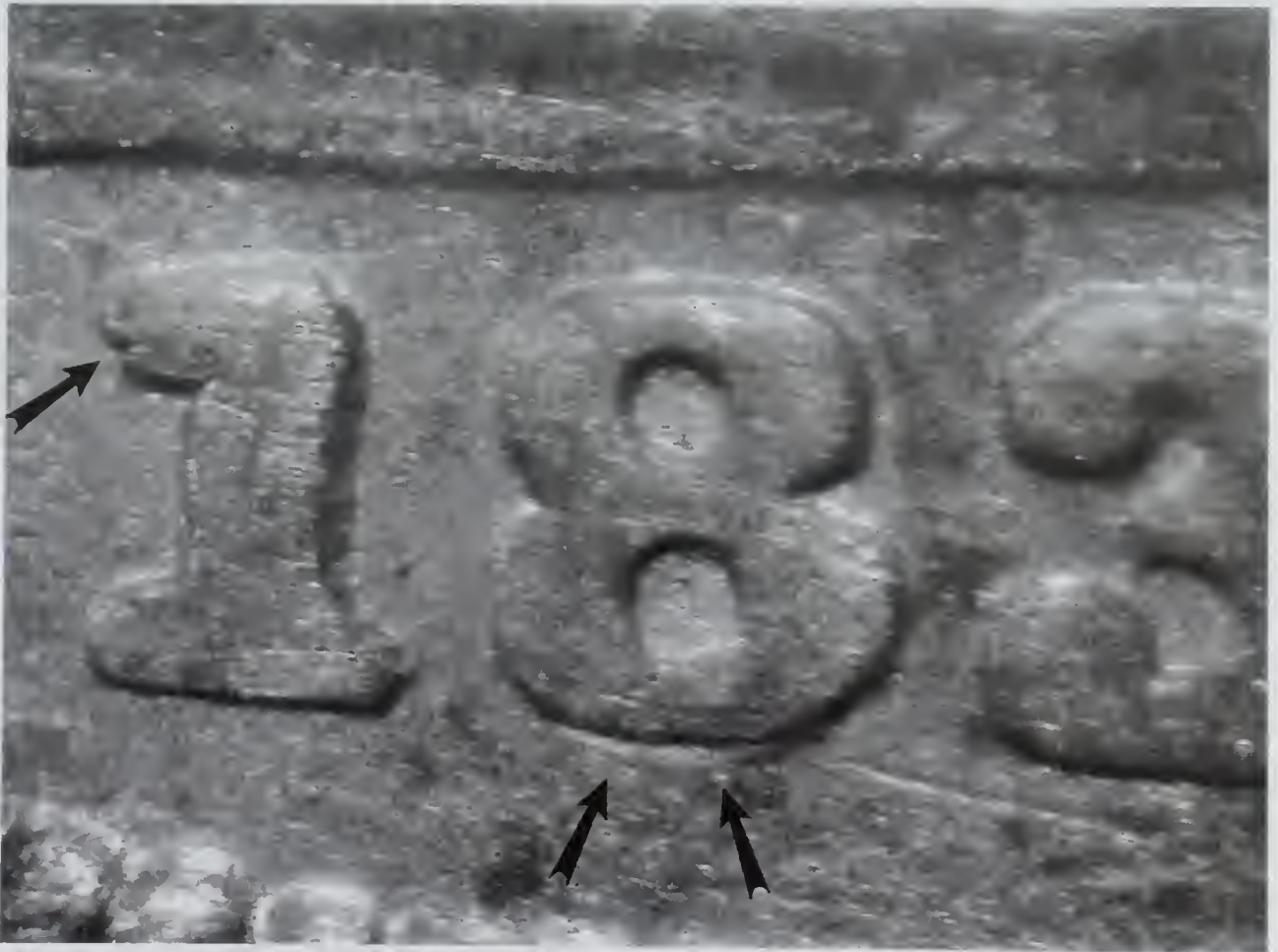
by

Mark Sheldon

A picture of the date on my 1838-O V-1 half dime is shown below. This picture shows the faint repunching at the base of the first 8 in the date that was reported by Al Blythe in his guide to the half dime series in 1992. The picture also shows what appears to be doubling on the flag of the 1 on this coin.

A study of my 1838 V-12 half dime revealed the same doubling on the flag of the 1. Valentine mentions the doubling for this variety when he states "Top of 1 in date double cut." I can find no other evidence of doubling on the 1 of this coin. I checked the other half dimes in my collection and I was surprised to find this same feature on many other coins. Besides my 1838 and 1838-O coins, I found doubling on the 1 of my 1841, 1841-O V-3, 1842, 1842-O, 1843 V-2, 1843/1843, 1844 V-2 and 1845 half dimes.

The same defect has been observed on many coins with different dates over a period of eight years. Pictures of the different coins show that the flag of the 1 was somehow chipped, giving it a notched appearance. This feature could have been a defect on the 1 of the date punch that was then reproduced on many dies over a period of years.



1838-O V-1 Half Dime with Recut Date

I have found no evidence of this defect on 1839 or 1840 half dimes. It should be noted that the defect appears to be much weaker on my 1844 V-2 and 1845 coins. This could be misleading however since these coins could be from a late die state, thus softening the effect of the notched 1.

The source of this defect is still a mystery. Were the dates on all of these dies double cut or was there a defect on the 1 punch in the date? Are there more varieties with this defect? Does anyone else have an idea on the source of the defect? Any additional information received on this subject will be published in a future issue of the journal.

References

Valentine, Daniel W. The United States Half Dime, originally published by the American Numismatic Society, New York, New York, 1931.

**1838 V-12
Half Dime
with Notched 1**



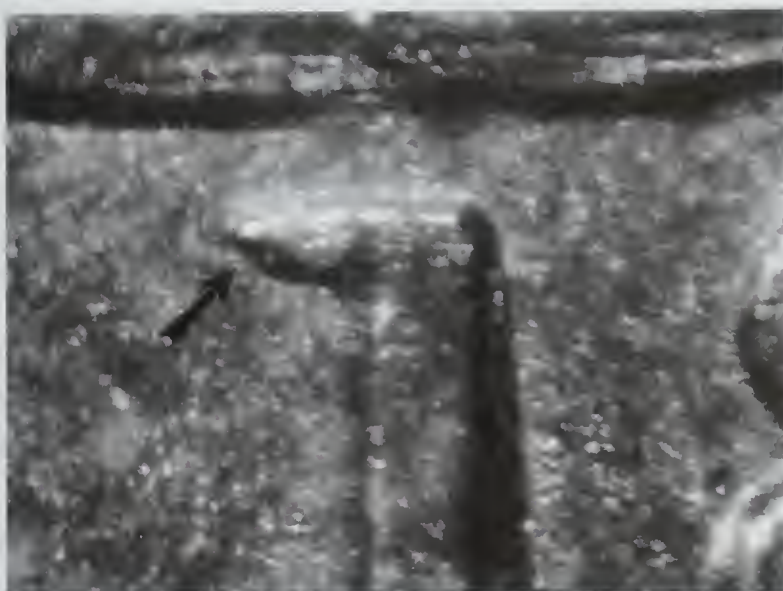
**1841
Half Dime
with Notched 1**



**1841-O
Half Dime
with Notched 1**



**1843 V-2
Half Dime
with Notched 1**



Collective Volume Number Four Available

Copies of Collective Volume Number Four of the Gobrecht Journal can still be purchased for immediate delivery by interested club members at the established price of \$44 per copy. Please make checks payable to Liberty Seated Collectors Club and send orders to: John McCloskey, President LSCC, 5718 King Arthur Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

The Editor

Observations on Liberty Seated Dollars

by

George Wertz

About a year ago I decided to build a collection of the early Seated dollars from 1840 to 1849 in about uncirculated grades. I believe that these coins are beautiful representations of the Liberty Seated design and I have found that they are usually very well struck. I have already purchased examples of more than half of the coins in this group but I plan to replace several of them with higher grade AU coins when they become available. I attend shows in my area and study the dollars of this period that I encounter. I would like to present some of the observations that I have made on these coins in recent months.

I recently purchased an 1841 Seated dollar in an AU-55 grade that has a well defined rim cud below the date. This piece is very well struck and it has a continuous rim cud from 5 o'clock to 7 o'clock on the obverse. It would be interesting to know how this cud developed during the striking of the 1841 dollar and how rare it is among coins of this date.

I also saw an 1842 Seated dollar with obverse rim cuds similar to those shown for this date in Issue #58 of the journal. This coin was graded XF-45 even though it had almost no hair detail. The presence of rim cuds on both 1841 and 1842 dollars would seem to indicate that these cuds were a problem for the mint during the early years of Seated dollar production.

Another coin that I purchased was an 1843 Seated dollar in an AU-55 grade. The piece is well struck with full design details. This coin also shows slight doubling on all of the date digits. This doubling has been reported by Walter Breen in his



1842 Seated Dollar with Rim Cuds

encyclopedia of United States coins and it has been described by Duncan Lee in Issue #58 of the journal. The coin shows slight doubling at the right base of the 1 in the date. There is also doubling on the inside of the upper loop of the 8 and doubling on the crossbar of the 4. Doubling also appears along the flat top of the 3.

I recently obtained an 1846-O Seated dollar in an AU-55 grade. The obverse and reverse of this coin display brilliant fields with only a subtle hint of contact through circulation. The coin shows visible evidence of a die clash in the obverse field below the forearm. On the reverse there is a fine raised line above the tip of the eagle's wing that meanders through the field toward the E in UNITED. This is not a die scratch and appears to be the result of a die clash. There are also a few faint hairline die cracks extending out from some of the letters in STATES OF AMERICA.

While visiting a local coin shop I had the opportunity to examine an 1847 Seated dollar in a nice XF-40 grade. The coin appeared to be original and it had two hairline die cracks on the reverse. The first crack begins at a denticle to the left of the U in UNITED and then runs along the top of the letters UNITED STA and then down into the upper part of the second T in STATES. The second crack begins at a denticle to the left of the leaves and extends on through the field to the left side of the O in ONE. This crack then runs through the base of the letters ONE and on to the lower part of the D in DOL.

I recently obtained an 1859-O Seated dollar that has some very unusual features for a branch mint coin. This piece was not purchased for my collection of early Seated dollars but it is extremely well struck and shows prooflike surfaces under both wings and on both sides of the eagle's neck. There are also some prooflike surfaces between the vertical lines in the shield that give this coin a very unusual appearance. The piece would grade AU-50 on the obverse with poorly defined hair and AU-54 on the reverse. It is certainly a beautiful coin and a wonderful example of the Seated coinage from the 19th century.

I have enjoyed studying the coins that I have encountered while building my collection of Seated dollars from the 1840s. I hope that my observations will provide some additional information on these beautiful coins from the Seated dollar series.



An Analysis of the 1841 No Drapery Dime

by

John W. McCloskey

I believe that the 1841 No Drapery dime is a great rarity that has not been studied sufficiently to determine its significance within the Liberty Seated dime series. This variety has been overlooked because an example of this rarity has not appeared at auction in any of the major collections during the last twenty five years. Last summer Eric P. Newman sent in a small picture of the 1841 No Drapery proof dime. I presented some information on this piece in Issue #78 of the journal but this research was limited by the size of the photograph that I received. A chance meeting at the ANA Convention in Philadelphia last summer resulted in my being able to obtain a large high quality picture of this great rarity. This picture has created an opportunity for a more detailed analysis of the design features of this special coin.



Coinage dies were still being produced individually for Bust dimes during the 1830s. The obverse stars and date digits were being punched individually into the obverse dies and the letters were being punched individually into each of the reverse dies. The denticles were also cut into each of the dies with hand tools, a practice that resulted in a different denticle count for each die prepared at this time.

The Seated dime series brought new technology to the preparation of coinage dies in 1837. The mint had perfected a process for dies that allowed it to transfer the entire obverse design from a working hub. This process created a more uniform design on the coins and made die preparation more efficient. This process extended to the denticles as indicated by a uniform denticle count for all of the obverse dies in the Without Drapery period. All of these obverses had 155 denticles with the denticles positioned the same on all of the dies. The constant denticle count over this period indicates that the mint produced obverse dies from the old no stars hub and then punched stars individually into the dies before they were used to strike coins in 1838, 1839 and 1840.

A new obverse hub for the Seated dime series was prepared by Robert Ball Hughes in 1840. This new hub showed some clear changes from the design used in the previous three years. The shield was moved to an upright position, the hand was moved up the pole toward the cap and the rock was reduced in size. Other changes in the shape of Liberty's head, in the shape of the drapery folds in the gown, in the shape and location of the cap and pole and in the shape of the rock base indicate that the obverse device was completely revised. The number of denticles was also reduced to 132 and these denticles added to the new obverse design. I believe that the first die made from the new hub was used to strike the 1841 No Drapery proof dime illustrated with this article. This design is bold and sharp and this obverse shows more detail than other coins of this period. There is clear separation between the bare arm and the gown on the left and clear separation between the bare arm and the leg on the right. The field areas under each arm are bold and clear and I believe represent the complete design intended for this coin.

The design shown on the 1841 No Drapery dime does not appear on any other coins in the dime series. I believe that mint officials studied impressions made from this design and decided that some modifications would be required before the new design could be used in the Seated dime series. I believe that the original master die was modified or that a new master die was prepared from the existing hub for this design. I believe that this new master die was modified by adding some drapery folds under the arm on the left to make it appear that the gown extended out behind the arm. I believe that drapery folds were then cut into the master die below the arm on the right and then some additional drapery folds cut into the space between the arm and the leg. The intent again would be to make it appear that the gown extended out behind the arm to reduce the separation of the arm from the rest of the seated figure. I believe that this modified design was then used to prepare the hub for the With Drapery obverse that was used for nearly twenty years in the Seated dime series. The denticle count for this new With Drapery obverse was 132, the same as the denticle count on the 1841 No Drapery obverse.

The theory that the 1841 No Drapery obverse was an intermediate design for the With Drapery obverse is supported by some key features in this design. Specifically the two vertical line segments on the shield above the E and the short pole segment between the index finger and the cap are sharper than the same features on other

coins of this period. These features are even stronger on the 1841 No Drapery obverse than they are on other proof coins of this period. The strength of these features indicates that the transfer process used to produce the With Drapery hub weakened the design in these areas so that it would no longer contain the fine detail projected on the 1841 No Drapery obverse.

A study of the stars on the 1841 No Drapery obverse has led to some questions that have not been completely resolved. The stars on the obverse of the Bust dime were positioned so that each star pointed to a denticle, making it easy to observe the location of the stars relative to the border denticles. The stars were rotated on the obverse when they were added to the Liberty Seated design in 1838. The stars now point to each other and their points extended out toward the denticles at an angle. This makes it easier to identify the position of the stars relative to each other. Specifically it was observed that the upper tip of the 1st star points inside the lower tip of the 2nd star on the 1841 No Drapery obverse. This placement is identical to the position of these two stars on all of the With Drapery obverses for nearly twenty years. The other stars point to each other for all of the obverses of this period. Identical placement of the stars would indicate that a hub was used to produce all of the obverse dies of this period.



**1841 No Drapery Dime with Unique Star Placements
Relative to Denticles**

A study of the placement of the stars relative to the denticles raises some additional questions about the 1841 No Drapery obverse. In fact, there appears to be a unique placement for some of the stars relative to the denticles on this obverse. Specifically a denticle points down directly into the gap between the two outer star points of the 7th star on the 1841 No Drapery obverse. This same denticle appears to point more toward the inside of the upper point of the 7th star on all of the With Drapery obverses. On the 1841 No Drapery obverse, a denticle points down toward the inner part of the lower outside point of the 8th star. The same denticle appears to point more toward the outer part of the lower outside point of the 8th star on all of the With Drapery obverses. Other star differences relative to the denticles can be recorded with additional comparisons of these features. I am not sure how these differences can be explained but I believe that they are important features for the 1841 No Drapery obverse.

In recent years the 1841 No Drapery dime has generally been considered to have been struck from a severely lapped obverse die with the drapery folds polished off its surface. I believe that this explanation completely misrepresents the importance of this coin within the Seated dime series. A careful study of this No Drapery design shows that the two line segments above the E on the shield are stronger than these segments on other coins of this period. Further analysis shows that the denticles on this obverse are not located in the same position as the denticles on the With Drapery obverses. These facts indicate that this No Drapery obverse is really an intermediate design that was modified to create the With Drapery obverse for the dime series.

I have no documentation from mint records to indicate that mint officials ever intended to use the special No Drapery obverse to strike proof coins in 1841. I would be interested in hearing from any club member with information relating to the mystery surrounding the striking of the 1841 No Drapery proof dime.

The information provided in this article was obtained by studying the Seated dime design of this period. I would be interested in hearing from other club members who might have other ideas on the origin of the 1841 No Drapery dime. Documents within the mint archives might shed some new light on the development of the new coinage designs in 1840.



LSCC Spring Regional Meeting

LSCC will hold a regional meeting of the club during the Central States Convention at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The convention will be held from April 6-8, 2001. The club meeting has been scheduled for 9:00AM on Friday April 6, 2001. The meeting will be held in Room 147 at the Indiana Convention Center.

The purpose of this meeting will be to provide LSCC members with an opportunity to discuss Seated coinage. You might want to use this meeting as an opportunity to show other club members interesting or unusual Seated coins that you have purchased over the years. Plans for future club activities will be announced at the meeting. Copies of the four Collective Volumes will be available for review and purchase at the meeting.

The Editor

BETTER DATES #49

This list contains all NEW material and some interesting varieties.

Call or write with your needs.

I have a lot of better dates not described in this ad.

HALF DIMES

1839-O	XF, Medium O, nice	\$62
1842-O	VG-F, nice gray	35
1843	XF, light gray	38
1844	XF, light gray	42
1848-O	XF, Medium O, reverse cud ...	110
1864-S	Good, a few obverse marks ...	27
1868	VF-XF, old cleaning	145
1869	XF-AU, sharp	52
1869-S	XF, cleaned	35

DIMES

1839-O	F-VF, Huge O, cleaned	\$210
1839-O	XF-AU, A-6, obverse cud	125
1840	VF, No Drapery	22
1858-S	Choice XF, some roughness ..	275
1860	Choice XF, scruffy	48
1862-S	G-VG, reverse scratch	35
1867-S	Choice VF, a few marks	90
1870-S	Fine, a few scratches	225
1877-S	VF-XF, reverse mark	25
1877-S	Choice AU, lustrous	95

QUARTERS

1838	F-VF, original	\$35
1839	Choice VF, a few marks	60
1843	VF-XF, album toning	46
1843	Choice AU, light cleaning	130
1845	XF-AU, album toning	80
1846	AU, cleaned, some luster	85
1848	VF-XF, a few scratches	100
1850	VG, scarce	43
1852	VF-XF, original, sharp	160

QUARTERS

1860-O	Choice XF, original	\$100
1860-S	About Fine, light gray	340
1862-S	F-VF, medium gray	160
1878	Proof-58, flashy	240
1880	Fine, reverse repair	160
1881	XF-AU, cleaned, toned	295
1891-O	Choice VF, slightly rough	180

HALF DOLLARS

1843-O	About Fine, nice	\$30
1845	VG, old cleaning	40
1856-S	Good+, old cleaning	43
1860	VF-XF, nice	65
1863	XF-AU, cleaned	130
1865	Fine, nice	50
1870-CC	Good+, some porosity	310
1874-CC	AG-G, nice	205
1875-CC	XF-AU, original	200
1875-CC	AU, dipped	250
1876-CC	AU-UNC, lustrous	375
1887	AU, lustrous	700
1890	VF-XF, old cleaning	315

SEATED DOLLARS

1860	F-VF, field mark	\$295
1862	VG-F, reverse rim bump	600
1862	AU-UNC, cleaned	1350
1870-CC	About VF	500
1872-S	Fine, old cleaning	360

TRADE DOLLARS

1877-CC	VF, light gray	\$220
1881	Choice AU+, toned	950

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An 1839-O Half Dime with Reverse Cud



This article presents pictures of an 1839-O half dime with a reverse cud that has not been reported for this date. The cud covers the denticles from the D in UNITED to the first S in STATES. While die cracks were common on Seated half dimes of this period, cuds are very rarely found on these dies.

Some additional features of this variety might be helpful to the half dime collector. The date is a little low in the field with the tip of the shield over the left edge of the 8. The 1 is close to the denticles with the left edge of this digit over the left edge of a denticle. The 9 is centered in the field between the denticles and the rock base.

The New Orleans mintmark is low in the field, closer to the ribbon than the M in DIME. The opening in the mintmark is centered below the right side of the left upright of the M. There is evidence of a die clash below the TES in STATES.

Has anyone seen another coin with this reverse cud? Does this cud become even larger in a later die state? Any information received on this variety will be published in a future issue of the journal.

The Editor



McCloskey Wins Pryor Numismatic Research Award

At the ANA Convention in Philadelphia last summer the club officers announced that LSCC would present the James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award for the best research article to appear in Issues #51 to #75 of the journal. The club officers nominated 20 articles that they felt were worthy of consideration for this award. All of the nominated articles presented original material that was obtained primarily from the study of actual coins. The articles were all published in the journal from July 1991 to July 1999. The list of 20 nominated articles was presented on a ballot and sent to all club members during September 2000. Club members were asked to send their ballot in with their dues during October 2000. This ballot was sent with the dues notice to maximize the response from club members for this important award. Club members were asked to vote for a maximum of three articles that they considered the best to appear in the journal over the eight year period. It was decided to allow members to vote for as many as three articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among many articles. There were 391 votes cast from the 160 ballots received during October 2000. The winner of the award was determined to be club President John McCloskey for his article "Date Styles on Liberty Seated Coinage" that appeared in Issue #58 of the journal in November 1993. A complete listing of the results for this election is given below.

RANK	ARTICLE AND AUTHOR	VOTES
1.	Date Styles on Liberty Seated Coinage, Issue #58 by John McCloskey	41
2.	Transitional Reverses on Liberty Seated Halves, Issue #66 by Dick Osburn	36
3.	A More Precise Method for the Attribution of Liberty Seated Half Dime Varieties, Issue #51 by Stephen Crain	29
4.	The Incredible Mystery of the 1873 Half Dollar, No Arrows, Open 3, Proof, Issue #57 by Jack Marston	28
5.	Liberty Seated Dime Research Update, Issue #71 by Gerry Fortin	27
6.	The 1848-O Half Dimes, Issue #56 by William Harmon	26
7.	The 1840-O With Drapery Large O Quarter, the Rarest Collectable Seated Quarter, Issue #64 by Jack Marston	23
8.	Variety Analysis of Business Strike Trade Dollars, Issue #69 by Joe Kirchgessner	22
9.	Star Alignment on Liberty Seated Coinage, Issue #68 by Tom DeLorey	20
10.	Date Characteristics for 1842 Liberty Seated Coinage, Issue #74 by John McCloskey	20

RANK	ARTICLE AND AUTHOR	VOTES
11.	Master Hubs and Dies of the Liberty Seated Half Dollar Series, Issue #54 by Craig Sholley	20
12.	Analysis Shows that the 1849 V-4 Half Dime is an 1849/1846 Overdate, Issue #75 by Mark Sheldon	16
13.	Liberty Seated Coins Struck From Blundered Dies, Issue #64 by Carson Torpey	16
14.	A Reason for the 1875-77 Trade Dollar Hub Change Found, Issue #65 by Tom DeLorey	13
15.	Off Center Liberty Seated Dimes, Issue #61 by Larry Rausch	13
16.	New Die Hubs Identified for Trade Dollar Series, Issue #61 by Michael Fazzari	12
17.	Conclusions on Misplaced Digits Found in the Liberty Seated Dime Series, Issue #69 by Gerry Fortin	8
18.	The Cause for the Broken Stripe Quarter Reverses, Issue #73 by Craig Sholley	8
19.	The 1840-O V-9 Half Dime, Issue #59 by William Harmon	7
20.	A New Variety for the 1868-S Half Dime, Issue #64 by Stephen Crain	6

Each of the twenty articles nominated for this award was well received when it was first published in the Gobrecht Journal. The results of the vote show that all of the nominated articles received good support from individual club members in this election. The authors should be congratulated for their valuable contributions to the journal during this eight year period. It is expected that the James B. Pryor Numismatic Research Award will be offered again for the best research article to appear in the next 25 issues of the journal, beginning with Issue #76. This award is designed to give recognition to an author who has made a significant contribution to the journal through numismatic research on Liberty Seated coins. Observations made on actual coins still remain an effective way to expand the available knowledge on the Liberty Seated coinage of the 19th century.

The Editor



Letters to the Editor

I read the article on 1836 Gobrecht dollars that appeared in Issue #79 of the journal very carefully. I believe that being the "first rate numismatist" who got the die alignment of the Jackson dollar wrong entitles me to comment on this fine article by Mike Carboneau and Jim Gray.

When Walter Breen published his definitions for the die alignment of Gobrecht dollars in 1988, I felt that they were overly complicated and I believed that something was somehow wrong with his method for identifying original coins. It had always been a difficult exercise figuring out whether any 1836 J-60 Gobrecht dollar was an original or restrike from the Breen definitions. After a while I just stopped trying, a decision that was made easier for me following the Jackson coin mess.

Carboneau and Gray have refined the Breen definitions for die alignment and they should be praised for liberating us from the Breen methodology. It is much easier to identify the letter opposite Liberty's head than it is to control axial motion as described by Breen. The authors have also added weight and die state evidence to the procedure for identifying original and restrike coins. By doing so they have cleared up the status of Breen's Die Alignment IV restrikes and solved the problem of properly identifying Die Alignment III coins. I think that their results are first class because they have simplified and made practical a procedure that had previously been unnecessarily complex and difficult. This is the hallmark of a truly original breakthrough study.

Michael Hodder
LSCC #1467

I carefully reviewed the list of six chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollars that was presented by James Sneddon in Issue #77 of the journal. I would like to report that I own two of the coins on this list, the Epps specimen and the Cole specimen. I also examined the Walls specimen in New York several years ago and I feel that it is not nearly as nice as the Cole specimen. A closer look at my third 1878-CC Trade Dollar has convinced me that this piece was not chopped but that it was center stamped in the United States many years ago.

I know of another chopmarked 1878-CC Trade Dollar not on the list published in Issue #77 of the journal. This piece was auctioned as part of a complete set of chopmarked Trade Dollars by The Mony Co. in the early 1990s. The 1878-CC coin was described as a polished Fine with two chopmarks on the obverse and one on the reverse. There is a picture of the coin in the catalogue. This piece is easily recognized by the dollar sign chop on Liberty's breast.

John Dreyer
LSCC #896

I would like to congratulate Stephen Crain for his fine article on the rarity and availability of Seated half dimes that appeared in Issue #79 of the journal. As a half dime enthusiast I am constantly seeking quality information on this series and I believe that his article contained many valuable insights for the collector. I would like to recommend a follow up article focusing on the availability of Seated half dimes by variety in the XF/AU grades. I am sure that Steve would have a wealth of valuable information on this subject.

Mark Sheldon
LSCC #1642

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Reverse Picture of
1836 Gobrecht Dollar



Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

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